United Nations

Press Release

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ UNAMIR asks African contingents with Operation Turquoise to remain in Rwanda protected zone when French forces depart on 22 August.

+ Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs sign anti-sniping agreement in Sarajevo; fighting wanes in Bihac pocket after release of political prisoners.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached by Democratic People's Republic of Korea and United States at Geneva talks; cites progress relating to Non-Proliferation Treaty and Safeguards Agreement.

+ Secretary-General expresses sadness at death of Manfred Woerner, noting his work to strengthen cooperation between United Nations and NATO.

+ One Bangladeshi UNIKOM observer killed, two wounded, by gunmen while patrolling on Iraqi side of demilitarized zone.

+ UNHCR condemns murder of field officer in northern Burundi.

+ Ad Hoc Committee on International Convention on Safety of United Nations personnel approves revised negotiating text.

+ Preparatory Commission for International Seabed Authority recommends that General Assembly approve $2.5 million to finance operations through 1995.

+ Gun-Britt Andersson appointed as Assistant Administrator of UNDP and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support; Noeleen Heyzer named as Director of UNIFEM.

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The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has asked African contingents serving with the French-led international force to remain in the protected zone in southwestern Rwanda when French forces depart on 22 August. The contingents will be incorporated into UNAMIR to ensure a smooth

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transition of control and to deter an exodus of refugees from the zone. So far, Chad and Guinea-Bissau have agreed to the request. Replies from four other countries -- Congo, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal -- are expected shortly.

Meanwhile, UNAMIR has deployed a Ghanain battalion in the zone and the first elements of an Ethiopian battalion have arrived to take up position. Population movements have so far been well below projected levels, but human agencies remain on alert, trying to maintain calm and deter an exodus westward, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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The Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leaders signed an anti-sniping agreement in Sarajevo over the weekend after negotiations held under the auspices of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The agreement took effect at midnight on Sunday and no sniping incidents were reported today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Meanwhile, conflict levels were down in the Bihac pocket after the breakaway Bosnian Muslim faction loyal to Fikret Abdic released 140 political prisoners.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the announcement in Geneva on Saturday that the third round of talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States had resulted in agreement on a number of outstanding issues. He said the international community applauded efforts to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula and to settle differences threatening regional security.

The Secretary-General cited the progress on steps by which the People's Republic would continue to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and to allow implementation of its Safeguards Agreement under the Treaty. He was also pleased with other points of agreement, including those aimed at normalizing political and economic relations between the United States and the People's Republic. He said he looked forward to further progress when the talks were resumed on 23 September.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed profound sadness at the death of Manfred Woerner. In a statement issued on Saturday, he paid tribute to Mr. Woerner's statemenship as Defence Minister of Germany and as Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

The Secretary-General also lauded Mr. Woerner's work to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and NATO in pursuit of peace in the former Yugoslavia.

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Three Bangladeshi soldiers serving with the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) were ambushed by unknown gunmen on Friday while patrolling the demilitarized zone on the Iraqi side of the border, according to a spokesman for the Organization. One observer was killed and the other two were wounded, while their vehicle was taken and stripped.

Responding to a written protest by UNIKOM, the Iraqi authorities later expressed regret at the incident and promised to do everything in their power to apprehend the attackers.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, has condemned the murder of a UNHCR field officer in the morthern town of Kirundo, Burundi on Saturday. The French national was killed by gunmen while hosting a dinner for the local administrator, who was apparently the target of the attack. One other person was killed and five people were wounded.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention Dealing with the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel has approved a revised negotiating text which would broaden the categories of United Nations personnel and the types of operations protected by a future instrument. However, disagreement remained as to exactly who should be covered and under what circumstances. The Committee took that action on Friday as it concluded its second and final session.

According to the text, the convention would cover persons engaged or deployed by the Secretary-General for a United Nations operation, including military, police and civilian components, and other individuals from the United Nations system present in an official capacity. Associated personnel would include persons deployed by a humanitarian non-governmental organization or agency by agreement with the Secretary-General or a specialized agency, and persons assigned by a Government or an intergovernmental organization with the agreement of a United Nations organ

A United Nations operation would be defined as one established and conducted under the authority of a United Nations organ to maintain or restore international peace and security. It would also include emergency humanitarian operations. However, the Committee's report noted views that the convention should be applicable only to United Nations operations mandated by the Security Council and carried out under United Nations command and control, and that such operations should be conducted with the consent of the host State in accordance with a status-of-forces agreement.

The text will be referred to the Sixth Committee (Legal) with a request for the reestablishment of a working group to continue negotiations on the convention for two weeks in October or November.

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The Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea has recommended that the General Assembly approve $2.5 million from the United Nations regular budget to establish and operate the Authority from 16 November 1994 to 31 December 1995. It also decided to submit a report on practical arrangements for setting up the International Tribunal to an ad hoc meeting later this year of States parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Commission took that action at the end of its two-week session on Friday, ending 12 years of work.

In a closing statement, Commission Chairman Jose Luis Jesus (Cape Verde) said that although the Commission had "gone through rough waters, it had arrived at a safe port." The Commission will cease to exist following the first session of the Assembly of the Authority, which will meet when the Convention enters into force on 16 November.

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The Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, James Gustave Speth, today appointed Gun-Britt Andersson as Assistant Administrator of the UNDP and Director of its Bureau for Policy and Programme Support. The Bureau provides policy guidance and substantive support to UNDP programmes. Ms. Andersson, a Swedish national, has been the Director of Operations in the West Bank for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) since 1992.

Mr. Speth appointed Noeleen Heyzer, a national of Singapore, as Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The Fund provides direct financial and technical support to low-income women in developing countries and funds activities bringing them into decision-making roles. Since 1984, Ms. Heyzer has been in charge of the Gender and Development Programme in the Asian and Pacific Development Centre in Malaysia.

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